

BOOK REVIEWS

COFFIN, BARBARA and LEE PFANNMULLER, EDS. 1988. **Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna**. University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414. Paper \$16.95. 473 pp.

This reference manual examines 300 species that are endangered, threatened or of special concern in Minnesota. The text is well organized. The plant section is divided into three chapters: vascular plants, mosses and lichens. The vertebrate section is divided into four chapters: birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles and fish. The invertebrate section includes chapters on butterflies, mollusks, tiger beetles and jumping spiders. The plant chapters have the same format. Each chapter list the endangered and threatened species alphabetically by scientific name. This includes a state distribution map and national range map, line drawing, basis for status, preferred habitat and aid to identification. The list of state special concern in an abbreviated format ends the chapters. The animal chapters are similarly organized. The appendices are list of species distribution by county. The index includes scientific and common names. *Dotty Woodson*.

HARAGAN, PATRICIA DALTON. 1991. **Weeds of Kentucky and Adjacent States, A Field Guild**. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40508-4008. Hardbound \$29.00. 278 pp.

This manual describes 160 weeds that are a common nuisance to man. The text is organized by color of flower then leaf arrangement. Each plant is described with a line drawing, scientific and common names, earmarks, origin, life cycle, description, distribution, and a brief text. There is a glossary and an index for scientific names and an index for common names. This manual can assist farmers and weed control experts in identifying a target weed in order to control it. *Dotty Woodson*.

SWINK, FLOYD. 1990. **The key to the Vascular Flora of the Northeastern United States and Southeastern Canada**. vi + 513 + 11 unnumbered + xii pages. Plantsmen's Publications, Box 1, Flossmoor, IL 60422. Paper. \$21.95 + 3.00 shipping and handling.

The key is unique: it is a long dichotomous key that goes on and on for 513 pages of small type. The area it covers is that of *Gray's Manual* (1950). Nomenclature is of that work, too, but supplemented, when needed, by "more modern" names.

Two sections make up most of the book. The first (pages 1 – 82) is a key to families. The second (83 – 513) has keys to genera of the families and to species of the genera. Used throughout is alphabetical arrangement, the familial and generic names appearing, intermixed, in dictionary-like order. Common names equated to scientific names appear, too, alphabetically. The keys are detailed, so that when one arrives at an identification, one has gone through prose that, collectively, gives a description of the plant. Closing the book are a list of "localized species" not in the key and an excellent glossary.

Floyd Swink has been for many years the senior taxonomist at Morton Arboretum near Chicago. Probably no person in eastern North America (except maybe the late Julian Steyermark) is better acquainted with local flora.

Keying out a plant with *The Key* is a bit tedious, like the same process in *Gray's Manual*, but, with care, one can identify the plant in hand. Anyone with the patience to use *The Key* will find the work most valuable. I recommend it. *John W. Thieret*.